THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014 *Volume 22, Number 4*

PECK'S COIN "Y"

Featured in this issue:

- An Analysis of Peck's Coin "Y"
- TAL Cent/Federal Halfcent Connection
- State Coinage by Type
- C4 Annual Meeting - Minutes
- Discussion of Plagiarism
- An Engraved New Jersey
- Condition Rarity
- Newman V Auction Report

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Stack's Bowers Galleries is pleased to announce our sale of

The Henry P. Kendall Foundation Collection

Highlighted by the finest collection of Massachusetts silver ever offered along with a 1792 Birch Cent, 1792 Silver Center Cent, 1861 Confederate Half Dollar and many other rarities

For many decades, a private collector quietly assembled one of the finest collections of American colonial coins ever formed. Capably facilitated by legendary dealer Lester Merkin, and ably assisted by the Stack family, the collection grew to include over 120 pieces of Massachusetts silver, outpacing the Boyd-Ford Collection to become the most complete grouping ever offered. The collection is now sold on behalf and under the name of the Henry P. Kendall Foundation, an American philanthropic enterprise that has been focused on environmental issues for more than fifty years.

The heart of the Collection is the early American coinage, led by the foremost assemblage of Massachusetts silver coins ever brought together for auction. Six different NE shillings, along with the Crosby Plate (1873) - Bushnell (1882) - Garrett Collection NE Sixpence, leaves the Collection complete by die variety among NE pieces, aside from the unique NE threepence permanently impounded in the Massachusetts Historical Society. The Willow Tree pieces are also practically complete, with five of the six known shilling varieties, a superb Willow Tree sixpence, and the only Willow Tree threepence in private hands. More than 50 examples of the Oak Tree type are included, led by the unique Noe-15 Oak Tree sixpence, called a "pattern" by Noe. A similar number of Pine Tree coins will be offered, including high grade pieces, extremely rare varieties, and coins with legendary pedigrees.

Other colonial and early American coins accompany the Massachusetts silver, including the Crosby plate examples of both the Maryland Lord Baltimore groat and the Standish Barry threepence, an extremely rare God Preserve New England Elephant token, a landmark 1670 Gloriam Regni 15 sols of Nouvelle France, and five Sommer Islands coins, representing each denomination, twopence through shilling. 1787 New York Excelsior coppers were collected in detail, featuring very rare Standing Indian and George Clinton coppers.

Undated (1652) NE Shilling.
Noe 11-A, Salmon 2-B. Rarity-7. Ex: Winsor.

1652 Willow Tree Threepence.
Noe 1-A, Salmon 1-A. Rarity-8.
Unique in Private Hands
For The Denomination.
Ex: Wurtzbach-Ford. Noe Plate.

1652 Oak Tree Sixpence. Noe-15. Unique.
Struck over Cut Down Oak Tree Shilling.
Ex Bushnell-Stickney. Noe Plate.

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Membership questions, address changes, and dues should be sent to Charlie Rohrer at P.O. Box 25, Mountville, PA 17554. Dues are $25 regular (including 1st class mailing of the *Newsletter within the US*) and $40 (for 1st class mailing outside the US); $10 for junior members (under 18 residing in the US) and $25 (under 19 residing outside the US).

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JANUARY 2015

(Jim Rosen)

As I have said many times, the "Presidential Message" I write in every *Newsletter* is to keep the membership "involved" with the goings-on of our club. We have nearly 400 members, but only about 70 - 80 attend our convention. That means that someone has to tell the rest of the membership what is going on in the club, and that responsibility is mine. I will let the rest of the members write erudite articles to let you muse over. **So if you have any questions or concerns about our club, please contact your regional VP or me. I am committed to this club and in that regard will address the needs of the membership and respond to your concerns. I want this message to be a link to those members who can't make the convention so that we all know what is happening within our club.**

Well, it's over – our 20th Anniversary Convention is now put to bed, but what a way to go! I feel that in all the years that I've been involved with C4 (since 1993), this was one of the very best conventions ever. I can't remember having a convention where so many people came up to me or wrote me to tell me it was one of the best conventions they ever attended.

To begin with, we have a wonderful board of Directors and group of volunteers without whom this convention would not exist, and a special thank you to Dennis Wierzba, our bourse Chairman for doing such a wonderful job with the Thursday night social and our bourse tables. We have solidified a great gathering area where members can socialize and exchange ideas and view each other's coins without having to go to a dealer's table (like we had to do in Boston). We have a dedicated photographic area where we can take pictures of our coins and do so in the company of friends. This area also has a section devoted to exhibits and an area for "show and tell," not to mention an area for our club table. Contiguous with our gathering area is an area where six corner tables are occupied by C4 dealers, making for a little "colonial enclave." Needless to say, we are all very happy with our setup in Baltimore – with special kudos to Whitman's show coordinator, Lori Kraft. Our relationship with Stacks-Bowers and with their Brian Kendrella and Chris Karstedt in particular is wonderful. To that end, I received a very nice note from Brian, (president of Stacks-Bowers) relating to me how pleased Stack-Bowers is to be associated with us. **Let us not forget that they can use our help with pre-federal consignments for next year's auction.**

This year, being our 20th Anniversary, we had some mementos at our table – two tokens, one with a Connecticut obverse and one with a New Jersey obverse, married to a really neat reverse. I suspect that if you send a check covering postage to Charlie Rohrer, he could be compelled to send them out to you. From my experience in mailing coins, I bet that it will be around $5. Unfortunately, the lanyards that we made will not mail well given the lobster claw clamp attached…thus those of you who want one might just have to come to the convention next year.

Our educational event this year was a jointly sponsored Coinage of the Americas Conference (COAC) with the American Numismatic Society (ANS). Credit goes to our audiovisual guru, Ray Williams, who somehow working with Jack Howes got things up and running. We had four wonderful talks on the Pre-Federal Coinage of America. This COAC will be published in total in Volume 23 of our *Newsletter* beginning with lecture #1 in April 2015 and ending with lecture #4 in Jan 2016. Our social began around 5pm with ANS and C4 members in attendance. This year, Dennis really outdid himself with the food choices and, believe it or not, there was food left over. The lectures were superb, with an impressive Q & A session after each. We already have a theme for next year: Spanish Coins that circulated in Pre-Federal America.

Your slate of officers did change a bit with the addition of two new Regional Vice Presidents, James Glickman from the Boston area and Gregory Field from North Carolina. Both of these men are very energetic and are more than happy to interact with their constituents, so you might want to give them a call and introduce yourselves. With these new additions came a re-alignment of our regions, so please look on page one of this *Newsletter* to see if your regional VP has changed. Also, we have a new person in charge of Public Relations for the club, and that is none other than Judge Arnold Miniman who recently relocated to the South. With Arnold's way with words, I expect the club membership to double in 5 years! (Just so you know, he can't fix speeding tickets). This coming year and possibly beyond, Craig McDonald is Chairman of Exhibits. Please contact him (his contact information is in the *Newsletter*) if you would like to exhibit. Other than these new additions, the governance of our club remains the same.

The C4 Stacks-Bowers sale Friday night offered a great selection of coins beginning with a nice selection of Massachusetts silver, from VF specimens to UNCs, followed by St. Pats, Rosa American and Hibernia coinage, Virginia halfpennies, Voce Populi coppers, a Chalmers shilling, French Colonies examples, Nova Constellatio coppers, Immunis Columbia coinage, and then examples of all the state coinages, plus a Bar Cent, and a nice Nova Eborac copper. Not to be missed was a beautiful Continental Currency Coin in pewter plus a copper Washington Born Virginia / Eagle with 13 Stars, believed to be unique in private hands. In summary, an extensive array of pre-federal coinage at all levels of affordability produces a great C4 auction.

So staying on this same theme, what is on the horizon for colonials and pre-federal coinage? Well, by the time you receive this *Newsletter*, the Newman Sale, part two of his pre-federal coinage will be history as well as the first installment of the Don Partrick Collection by Heritage Auctions, constituting selections of his colonial and pre-Federal coinage including 6 NE shillings. Not to be outdone, Stacks-Bowers in March is auctioning off one of the largest, if not the largest, collection of Massachusetts Silver ever auctioned at one time, also with 6 specimens of NE shillings. I saw these coins at Baltimore and words can't really describe how beautiful they are. Since this sale is not until March, you have a few months to start saving or taking out a second mortgage on your home or selling or renting a kid or two or taking on another job. But if you love and collect Mass Silver, this sale is one not to be missed. If you can't make the sale, at least

try to view the lots, in person or online. How the market will be able to absorb these sales boggles the mind but I'm sure there will be no unsold lots or bargains.

Please take notice that dues for those living outside of the United States will increase to $40 per year, to reflect the significant cost differential in mailing the *Newsletters* to a foreign country. Sorry for this but it costs us just about $40 per member per year to publish and mail the *Newsletter* to our 400 members. Those living in the continental United States are getting a bargain for their $25 dues…and those that attend the convention are really making out well when you consider that they are also getting dinner on Thursday night…one of many incentives to come.

I would like to remind everyone that the editor of the *Newsletter* is continuing to look for basic articles on Pre-Federal Coinage, anything from grading coins to developing a type set. Included in this issue of the *Newsletter* is an appeal for these basic articles. Please take a moment and read it. We listened to you and your message was loud and clear. Often the articles in the Newsletter are overwhelmingly technical, so we are trying to balance them with more basic material. Realizing that since articles do not fall from the sky, please send in something that will appeal to the more basic and novice collector. My articles appearing in the last couple of *Newsletters* are such examples.

In closing, be happy, healthy and safe with your family and friends. I look forward to seeing some new faces next November at our 21st annual convention, and do continue to enjoy this wonderful hobby.

CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEIT HALFPENCE – COIN Y CHARACTERISTICS

(Jack Howes)

This family is named after the label that C. Wilson Peck used for the initial member of this family in his book, "*English Copper, Tin, and Bronze in the British Museum*." In this book, Peck exhaustively documents regular issues of the British Royal Mints and their patterns but also has something to say about contemporary counterfeits. The book has fifty plates and the last one i.e., plate 50, contains examples of contemporary counterfeits. The coin labeled Y on that plate [see Figure 1] was the first member of this family and Peck's label of Y is the source of the family name. This coin is known as the head of the house [HOH]. On the Coin Y plates in this paper that variety has been given the designation CY50-74Y1 for fairly obvious reasons. It was surprising but pleasing that the label for this HOH example fit well into the "nose to legend" naming scheme.

Currently there are 70 obverse and 70 reverse dies that combine with some non-Coin Y dies for a total of 101 varieties. Although no new dies or varieties have surfaced in the last 12 months, new dies and new combinations of existing dies will be found over time. This continues to play out in even well researched families like the New Jersey state coppers.

What can we say about this group of contemporary counterfeits? More than you might think! Since this family is large, probably between 1 and 2 million coppers were struck. If you estimate that a die pair was good for an average of 10-20K coins you get this kind of totals.

Looking at the metrology for this group (see Figure 2), we see the average weight of the family is 127 grains, which is quite high relative to full weight regal coppers. Can we draw any conclusions or make any inferences from these measurements? Possibly. Two come to mind:

1) The people who struck these coins had no understanding of the economics of striking coppers coins and did not care whether they made money. This family's average weight is only about 10% under the average weight for regal coppers, which almost assures that this was a money losing operation.

2) The group that made these was familiar with the economics of making counterfeit coppers and may have had the capital already invested in the equipment to strike coppers. Thus they may have set the size of the cutout dies and planchet thickness to intentionally make a coin that would be difficult to tell from a regal by feel but that was still profitable. This might have given them a competitive advantage. It also seems to point to a group with established

expertise. Possibly a button manufacturer or other stamper of copper using wasted time, perhaps at night to make a little extra money.

One of these inferences seems like it must have been true. I favor the second hypothesis.

Overall Statistics	
Mean	127.0
Median	126.5
Max	151.5
Min	111.0
Std	10.3

Figure 2. Family Weight Statistics

Also because of the high average weight, this may be a family that was struck during the time period indicated by the dates on the coins. Based on reports in newspapers of the time, counterfeit coppers got lighter over time, eventually creating a backlash in 1789. Thus, these were much more likely to have been struck earlier in the period of intense counterfeiting, close to the actual dates of 1773-5.

Family Characteristics

Initially the characteristics for inclusion in this family were the hooked thumb on the branch hand, distinctive "N"s, hand cut dates, and the often-pugilistic face. This family could have easily been called, "boxing George" or "Ass Kickin' George," or something along those lines. These first characteristics were not discriminating enough; i.e., many coins that upon more study did not really fit into the Coin Y family were being included. So, more discriminating features were developed. The following are what were eventually decided to be the defining characteristics for a Coin Y family variety:

A. If 3 out of 4 obverse characteristics (B) are satisfied the obverse is Coin Y and if 5 out 6 reverse characteristics (C) are satisfied for a reverse it is a member. If only one side is a member it is a **mule**.

B. Obverse characteristics:

a. Wreath ends in a single point [rarely two points but one is predominant and the effect is the same], probably the strongest indicator. Looks like a pyramid or triangle or tepee.

b. Ordinals are wedge shaped and often but not always have no bottom or only weak bottom serifs.

c. Face and forehead are distinctively sloped, often a very pugilistic look. Nose appears webbed on many. **Satisfying these first three points allows identification of a Coin Y by the obverse with high probability.**

d. Legend letters distinctive, G,R,I,S and X. Three of five satisfies this. G is wide and has a blocky horizontal serif. Diagonal of the R is always hand cut and short. I wedge shaped. S is distinctive but there are half a dozen variations. X has a couple predominant shapes.

C. Reverse characteristics:

a. Shield -- half tulip, squared off on left side. Always.

b. Sprigs hand cut, unique for every variety. Always.

c. Hooked thumb on branch hand. Always. **Satisfying these first three points allows identification of a Coin Y by the reverse with high probability.**

d. Cartoon head. Several variations – wide, tall, and medium roundish.

e. Date is always distinctive. Hand cut. Small J for 1 always. 7s are almost always slightly different. 4 varies in size and placement significantly. It can be tight or wide, high or low. Also tilted.

f. Legend letters distinctive, N, R, I, T. Three of four satisfies. N is well known but there are some variations. R same as obverse. I wedge shaped. T with very thin horizontal and often wedge shaped vertical.

Variety naming

The obverses have been numbered using the Global Attribution Scheme (GAS) method developed by Clem Schettino and the counterfeit study group. The method calls for numbering obverses according to where the obverse head's nose aligns to the legend. Lower numbers mean lower alignment to the legend and higher numbers mean the converse. This allows you to tell by looking at an obverse whether it will be a low numbered one or a high numbered one. Obverses have been assigned numbers CY[1-94]; e.g., CY1 or CY50 (the CY is not used on the plates but I recommend you name your files using the CY prefix which will allow you to have all your counterfeits in one directory and sorted into families). Since this family has multiple dates, the nose to legend methodology was applied separately to the '72s and '73s and then picked up where it left off with the '74s. Some gaps have been intentionally left as more varieties will almost certainly appear. Reverses are assigned a date followed by one or two letters (capitals only) e.g. 74ZA or 73E, etc. Like the obverses, there are some gaps, left intentionally to fill in as new varieties are discovered. While obverses were assigned numbers ordering the dies with the lowest number corresponding to the placement of the nose relative to the legend, reverses were assigned numbers in an arbitrary manner; i.e.,

no system. It is too complicated with this large a family to try any ordering of reverses on top of doing so with obverses.

Mules

There are a lot of mules in this family. A mule is a die from another family of dies like the Mousey Face (MF). There are a number of linkages to the MF family. Clearly the MF family of dies is closely related. Designation of muled varieties is complicated. On one hand it would be nice to label the mules such that each family is identified but the problem with this is that more often than not the other family has not been mapped or is completely unknown. I think ideally we would have designations like: CY27-MF74x or MFn-CY74Z.

Since this is not currently possible, mules are defined as follows. Obverse mule dies are designated with brackets and a number. The number is just a sequential numbering of mules dies with nothing implied by either the number or the order e.g. [1]-74XX means a non-CY obverse muled to CY reverse 74XX. Reverses are numbered with lower case letters e.g., CY27-74a which means CY obverse 27 paired (muled) with non-CY die 74a. The year is just the year on the non-CY die and the lower case letter means nothing. This is just a way to identify the die and distinguish it from a CY variety.

To try to further reduce confusion about which coins are mules, a grey background has been placed under each mule die in the plates so that any mule should have an easy visual queue. I have also tried to identify the family of the mule die. Some are defined and some are not (yet).

Plates

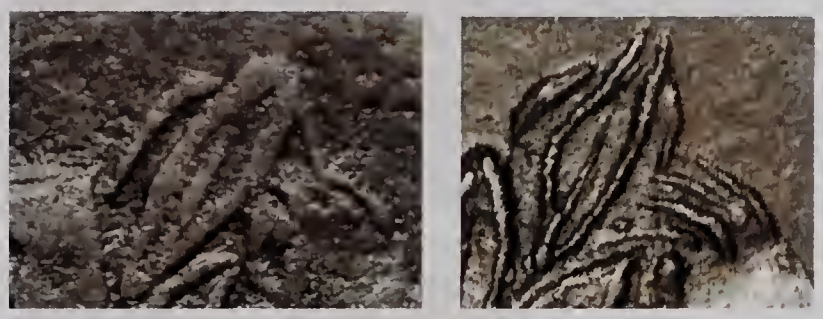
The plates are organized as follows. Figure 1 reproduced the Peck Plate. This is followed by two plated that lay out Coin Y characteristics – obverse and reverse, respectively. This is followed by a series of ten plates that lay out the varieties of Coin Y, including mules, using the naming definitions described above. These are followed by two plates that lay out the unique sprigs in order of how they align with the reverse legend. And finally, I have presented a plate of coins that are still under consideration – they may be outliers or not.

Mapping out a family this large is quite complicated and is something I have been working on for about 10 years. I can understand why Maris took quite a long time to develop his plate of New Jersey varieties as that is a family of comparable size. He had the disadvantage of not working with modern computers and digital cameras but at least for New Jersey's anything with a horse/plow on one side and a shield on the other was a family member. Breaking contemporary counterfeit (CC) halfpence into meaningful chunks is considerably more difficult. This is just one relatively small piece of the whole CC puzzle. Room has been left in the plate layout so that new varieties that surface can be fit in roughly where you would expect them to be found.

The plates are likely to need substantial revision over time – most likely additions. No renumbering will occur, although if a variety is dropped then that number/letter may be reused.

Fig. 1: Peck, Bottom of Plate 50

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Characteristics (Obverse)



Wreath – forming single point "Tepee like"

Wedge shaped ordinals (some with bottom flare)

Toon heads

Distinctive Letters – G, R, S and X with variation

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Characteristics (Reverse)

Hooked thumb

Distinctive Letters – N, T and I

Date, J always, 7s crude, 4 varies in position a lot [high, low, tilted left/right and far

Tulip shield
NOT Coin Y
but it is
Mousey Face (MF)

Coin Y shield
Asymmetric
Top border

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Peck Coin Y Family: 1772 & 73/74

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-Above-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-Above-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-Above-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-At-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-At-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose-At-R

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose - Below - R vertical

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose - Below - R vertical

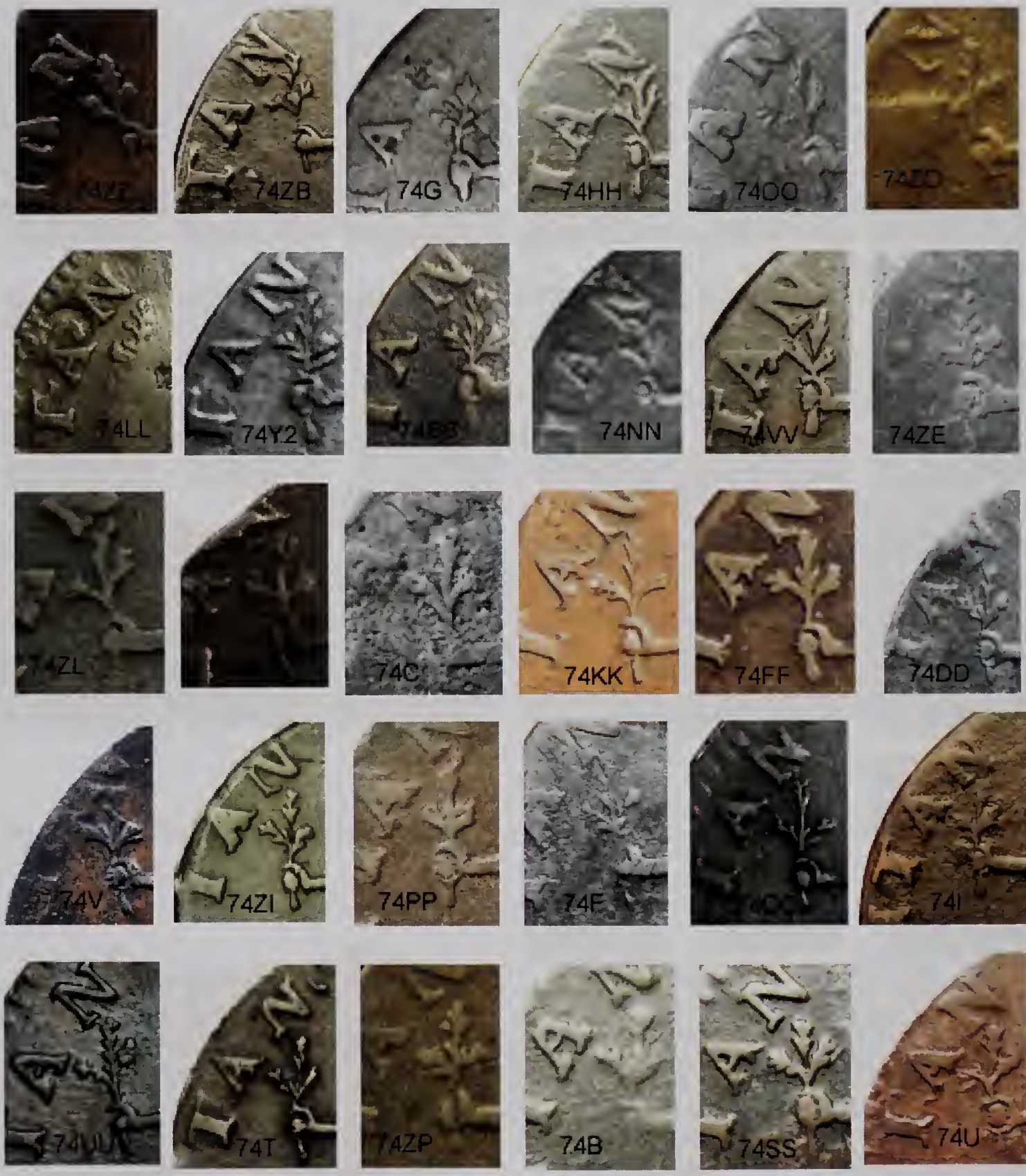
Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1774: Nose - Below - R vertical

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family 1775s

Notes about 75s. I have never really thought CY92-75A is strongly CY. It seems more like a transition coin. If CY94 eventually surfaces with a 74 reverse, I will conclude there are no 75 Coin Ys. CY70 is awfully close but I believe not the same. You might want to check this yourself. So, for now I have this small group of 75 Coin Ys

Also at the right is the MF obverse for 75a. It illustrates there are more die links into the MF family or sub-family depending on how you think about the relationship

Coin Y Family 1774 Variety Sprigs – All Unique



Coin Y Family 1774 Variety Sprigs – All Unique

Contemporary Counterfeit Halfpence – Coin Y Family: Work in Progress

7463RLR

Is there such a thing as a transitional variety? Who can say? This one seems to fit the bill: it has many of the CY characteristics but not so pronounced; e.g., the profile, similar but a touch more nuanced, the lettering, odd X much larger and similar to CY styles, ditto for G, R, and S. Ordinals just a slight wedge shape. On the reverse the I, T, and N are CY style. The date, similar but evolved. Ditto the figure, thicker but the same, odd head. Barely hooked thumb on branch arm.

The next two coins may be Coin Y or may be their own small family: I had assigned a variety designation but pulled it out after 7354RLR below.

7354RLR

The next two are the same variety. I am leaning toward the obverse being Coin Y but the reverse a mule.

7469CVS

MORE THAN DOUBLE THE FUN #4: 1795 TALBOT, ALLUM & LEE (TAL) CENT AND 1797 U.S. HALF CENT STRUCK OVER A 1795 TAL

(Buell Ish)

Every coin tells a story. For those of us who collect "Colonials" this adage carries significant meaning, and most of us have the stories to prove it. The coins in our collections are both fun to study and fun to show. Many coins have a link to other coins, often creating natural pairs. The two coins described and illustrated here are a perfect example. Show such a pair to anyone and they're bound to listen and study both coins for more than twice the amount of time they might spend examining either coin by itself. While the individual coins themselves are fun, such paired coins are more than double the fun!

These coins are dated 1795 and 1797, and as such are not technically "colonials." Similarly state coppers are also not technically "colonials," for arguably our colonial period ended on July 4, 1776. As a club and as individual collectors, we have searched for a neat and convenient definition for just exactly what it is that we collect. I fully expect that this search will continue. While individuals will be able to define what it is that they collect, we as a group won't be able to come to a consensus. In my opinion, that is the beauty of it. Geographically we can't draw a definitive border around Colonial America. The start and end of the period is similarly problematic. And then we have to deal with the question of "made here" versus simply "used here." That question alone is all the more complicated because we don't know where many coins were actually made. For some coins, we are still trying to determine if they actually circulated here.

For some collectors, the U.S. Constitution, which went into effect on March 4, 1789, might mark the end of the "colonial" period. Others might view the passage of the Coinage Act by Congress on April 2, 1792, which created the U.S. Mint, or the year that the U.S. Mint first issued coins for circulation, 1793, as a convenient end point. However, initial production at the U.S. Mint was so small that little changed in the former colonies for many years. Business continued to be conducted with a potpourri of coins, most of them foreign. As evidence of this, consider that on April 10, 1806 an Act of Congress gave foreign coins, such as the Spanish dollar, official legal tender status. A status they would enjoy until 1857. "Early products of the U.S. Mint merely complemented the mix of coins, tokens and small change notes in circulation. In those days, a typical American might go for months or even years between sightings of federal coins. Most sooner would recognize a Spanish or British coin than an American one. That it took half a century to change this situation can be attributed to politics, greed, geography, disease, poor funding and very real technological and logistical limitations."[1]

As the economy began to improve after the Revolutionary War, the need for small change became quite severe. Under the Articles of Confederation (1781 to 1789), the states had the right to coin. All significant coinage efforts during this period were

concentrated on filling the need for copper coins. We collect state coppers today because there are no state silver or state gold coins from this period to collect. While it is beyond the scope of this article to recount in detail, 1789 brought the "Copper Panic" and the U.S. Constitution, which brought an end to the states' rights to coin. The take-away piece of information here is that the public desperately needed small change that could be trusted and utilized in commerce, but the remedy was years in the making. The Constitution shut down the state mints, but years would pass before the federal government began to fill the void with actual U.S. Mint coinage.

In 1794 Talbot, Allum & Lee (TAL), a New York business engaged in the India trade, initiated a private attempt to provide small change. The U.S. Mint was open, but production was much too small to meet the needs of private citizens and businesses for small change. TAL ordered 1794 and 1795 dated tokens from Peter Kempson & Co. of Birmingham.[2] Photo 1 shows my 1795 example.

1795 Talbot, Allum & Lee "Cent:"
Obverse: LIBERTY & COMMERCE 1795
Reverse: AT THE STORE OF TALBOT ALLUM & LEE NEW YORK.
Edge lettering: WE PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE CENT

In addition to being a medium of exchange, TAL clearly intended that these pieces serve a dual purpose as advertising. Both years, 1794 and 1795, are readily available to collectors.[3] For my collection I chose a circulated coin because it met my needs, and I intended to handle and study it. Similarly, I wanted an unslabbed coin to be able to study the edge lettering unimpeded. Surprisingly I could have bought ten or more Uncs in the time it took me to find a pleasing circulated coin at a market price. I chose a 1795 example because just such a coin served as the planchet for the 1797 half cent shown in Photo 2. (But, I'm getting ahead of myself.)

TAL obviously overestimated, by a wild margin, the quantity of these "cents" that they would be able to place into circulation, and they were quick to realize it. They sold 1,076 pounds of the tokens to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia on April 23, 1795 for $193.68.[4] This would have amounted to approximately 52,000 tokens ($520 face value),

so the firm realized about .37 cents per token, a very significant discount from face value. Many C4 members have extensive Early American Coppers (EAC) experience and are well acquainted with the early days of the Philadelphia Mint and its efforts to obtain copper. While there may have been plenty of copper on hand at the mint in 1793,[5] the situation was much different in late 1795 when outgoing Mint Director Henry W. DeSaussure stated in his report that there was "no copper on hand fit for coinage."[6] The purchase of the TAL tokens represented one of the creative ways in which the Mint sought to fulfill the need for copper. Interestingly, DeSaussure characterized the TAL tokens themselves as unfit for coinage, because they would have been on hand when he submitted his report as all 1795 dated half cents struck over TAL tokens are widely believed to have been minted in 1796.

Cohen wrote, "Evidently the making of Half Cent planchets from Talbot Allum & Lee tokens was considered a success as before the year 1796 closed, the Mint made another purchase of these tokens."[7] This second and final purchase took place on December 10, 1796 and amounted to 1,914 pounds of copper for $319 (about .34 cents per token).

The U.S. Mint in these first few years was, in many ways, very similar to the state mints that had closed a few years earlier. Indeed, Albion Cox, one of the New Jersey coiners (in Rahway, NJ with Thomas Goadsby) was U.S. Assayer from March 8, 1793 until his untimely death in December, 1795.[8] Moreover, the U.S. Mint had acquired the Rahway coining press, later used in Elizabethtown as well, on June 3, 1794.[9] Breen believed it was this very press that was used to strike the large cents and half cents produced in the early years at the Philadelphia Mint.[10] The 1797 U.S. half cent shown in Photo 2 just might have been struck on the same press that produced many New Jersey coppers. While we are considering the similarities between the early U.S. Mint and the state mints, overstriking ought to be mentioned.

When I first encountered overstruck coins produced by the US Mint, I was surprised. It had seemed as if those individuals involved in overstriking various coppers with New Jersey dies had a virtual corner on the practice. As the coin in Photo 2 shows; however, the U.S. Mint also engaged in the practice, but with a notable difference. The earlier practice of overstriking involving New Jersey coppers was a form of fraud, for it was done by unauthorized or no longer authorized parties who one would assume did not pay the State of New Jersey their 10% share. As it was practiced by the U.S. Mint, it was probably simply an expedient means of recycling.

Cohen describes the process thusly, "These items were first put through a roller to reduce them to the proper thickness, and then cut to size. Many Half Cents of this period will exhibit features of the planchet's prior stamping, which is referred to as an undertype."[11]

1797 U.S. Half Cent, Cohen-2 struck over a 1795 TAL:
Obverse: "YORK" from undertype visible in left field
Reverse: "& COMM" visible at left under ED STA
Rim lettering: "BEARER" from undertype remains

The 1797 U.S. half cent shown in Photo 2 is just such an example. Along the left side of the obverse the word "YORK" can be discerned. Before YORK, the W from NEW can also be made out, as well as the cinquefoil following at about K10. On the reverse, "& COMM" from "LIBERTY & COMMERCE" can be read underneath the "ED STA" portion of United States. Interestingly, it does not end there. It will be noted that the edge of the coin is slightly straighter just above these two areas...one area actually, for these areas lie opposite one another. When this particular planchet was punched out of the TAL token, the token was off-center such that a portion of the undertype's edge remained. On a 1795 TAL, the edge lettering reads "WE PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE CENT." Of this, the entire word "BEARER" remains (see inset photo).[12] Most of the preceding "E" is also evident. So on this particular half cent, undertype details are evident on all three "sides!" It is rare to have undertype lettering on the edge, but other examples do exist. Cohen writes, "Some Talbot Allum & Lee overstrikes will show edge lettering which were on the planchet. One specimen in my collection has the letters NE CEN on its edge and was struck over a 1795 Talbot Allum & Lee cent."[13]

The Cohen book lists five varieties for 1797 and, interestingly, the Redbook also shows five varieties. The edge figures big in this because 1797 half cents come with plain, gripped and lettered edges. A lettered-edge coin reads "TWO HUNDRED FOR A DOLLAR". Even though my particular half cent has lettering on the edge (from the TAL token), it is considered a Plain Edge as far as Redbook pricing goes.[14]

The 1797 U.S. half cent in Photo 2 is of the variety known as Cohen 2. Distinctive aspects of this obverse include a "small whisker like defect on Liberty's neck" as well as a "border which has long denticles." Cohen observes, "The long denticles on the obverse die usually obliterate the undertype at the edges as very often

seen on Variety #1. It is my opinion that the obverse die was made deliberately with large denticles so as to eliminate the undertype."[15] If this were the intention, happily it did not prove completely effective on my specimen. While we are on the topic of denticles, it is interesting to note that, on the reverse, the round end half cent denticles predominate from K6 to K9, but that from K9 to about K11, the pointed TAL denticles win out. Interestingly this area coincides exactly with where the word "BEARER" remains on the edge. It must have been the case that all of the TAL denticles would have been cut off of tokens properly centered during the planchet cutting process. This half cent weighs 80.4 grains, or just below the statutory weight of 84 grains in effect at this time. Quality control for half cents was below that of large cents. Cohen reports an observed weight range from 77 to 118 grains for half cents that should weigh 84 grains.[16]

As mentioned in the introduction, these two coins are not true colonials. Yet they fit quite well in my Early American collection. They bring the period to life and they have a story to tell. Their story is that of the transition that was taking place. The colonies were becoming the United States. This change did not happen overnight. The coins that were in use here were also transitioning. Over the course of a few decades the coins in our pockets would change from a mish-mash of local and foreign coins to a much more uniform coinage produced by the U.S. Mint. These two coins illustrate this transition better than any others of which I am aware. Together they signal that the colonial period (my favorite period of time, numismatically speaking) is coming to a close.

Acknowledgements:
Photography: Jack Howes.
Reviewing: Bill Eckberg, Mitch Mitchell, Ray Williams.

ENDNOTES

1 Nipper, Will, *In Yankee Doodle's Pocket*, Conway, AR: Bowmanstone Press, 2008, p. 441. Nipper uses 1840 as the end date for this period as that was the approximate date when the U.S. Mint was finally able to catch up with public demand.

2 Because these popular tokens are included in most relevant reference books, I will limit what I include here to that relevant to this particular tale. For more information see: *Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins* by Q.D. Bowers, *In Yankee Doodle's Pocket* by W. Nipper, or any edition of the Redbook.

3 As I write, eBay has listings for: 9 – 1794s, including one slabbed PR64 and one of the rarer "Without NEW YORK" examples, 6 – 1795s, three of which are slabbed MS64 or 65, plus three TAL mules.

4 Bowers, Q. David, *Whitman Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, Atlanta: Whitman Publishing, 2009, pp. 244-8.

5 Salyards, Harry E., "A Large Supply of Coinable Copper Was Available in 1793," *Penny-Wise*, quarterly, October 2014 (volume XLVIII), p. 305.

6 Cohen, Roger S., Jr., *American Half Cents*, 2nd ed., Arlington, VA: Wigglesworth & Ghatt, 1982, p. 24.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Taxay, Don, *The U.S. Mint and Coinage: An Illustrated History from 1776 to the Present*, New York: Arco Publishing Company, 1966.

[9] Acquired from Hannah Ogden, Matthias Ogden's widow for $47.44. Mint records.

[10] Breen, Walter, *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of Early United States Cents 1793-1814*, Wolfeboro, NH: Bowers and Merena Galleries, 2000.

[11] Cohen, p. XII.

[12] BEARER indicates that the undertype was a 1795 token. The edge lettering on the 1794 tokens reads, PAYABLE AT THE STORE OF.

[13] Cohen, p. 27.

[14] Lettered Edge specimens command around five times the price of Plain Edge specimens, depending on the grade. The Gripped Edge coins...at least another ten times that. "Redbook" refers to: Yeoman, R.S., author, Bressett, Ken, editor, Garrett, Jeff, valuations editor, *A Guide Book of United States Coins*, various editions, Atlanta (recent editions): Whitman Publishing Company, 1947-present.

[15] Cohen, p. 28.

[16] Cohen, p. 19.

GETTING BACK TO BASICS

(Ray Williams)

Many of us over time tend to focus our collecting on a certain series, specializing in all aspects of that series, including the research and study of the minutia of the series. In the pages of the *C4 Newsletter* and *CNL*, we publish our research – research that we find fascinating and which is appreciated by those with the same collecting pursuits. **BUT** (a big but), those new to collecting colonials, along with those that do not specialize in that series, might be scratching their heads after making it through a paragraph or two.

I recall my early days of collecting NJ Coppers. It was so much fun, and adding a new variety could occur as often as I could save the money to purchase it. I remember reading Mike Hodder's "NJ Reverse J Study" as a new colonial collector. It seemed so difficult to comprehend, it made my brain hurt. I had to reread it several times for the knowledge to sink in. Now that I have been around a few years, learning from others, doing some research, reading as much as I can... I reread Hodder's Reverse J study and it seems easy and logical. Knowledge comes with time and experience.

What might have happened if I tried to read Hodder's research, gave up because collecting this series seemed too complicated, and decided to collect Lincoln Memorial Cents? One C4 Member didn't renew his dues for 2014 because many of the articles in the *C4 Newsletter* were too in-depth for him. Before this letter was received, at the C4 Board meeting at the 2013 Convention, a discussion was conducted on this very topic – seeking *C4 Newsletter* articles written for the collector new to colonial coins, or the casual collector, in addition to the quality, but detailed, articles already being submitted. All agreed to this idea and this article is my first contribution to this end...

COLLECTING STATE COINAGES

I have a lot of fun giving presentations to New Jersey coin clubs on colonial topics. Because I'm talking to mostly non-colonial collectors, I try not to go too deep into details. One of the talks I give is about collecting state coinages. I gave this presentation at the 2012 C4 Convention, for the general public, and it seemed well received.

The Articles of Confederation recognized the states' rights to produce coins. Three states (New Jersey, Connecticut and Massachusetts) and one independent republic (Vermont) legislated to do so. We traditionally call the coinage of these four entities State Coinages. For a brief introduction to each of the coinages, you can read the Red Book, an inexpensive Whitman publication almost everyone in the hobby owns. The Q. David Bowers *Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*, also a Whitman publication, goes into much more detail. If more information is sought, there are specialty books and auction catalogs that will go into great detail, and I would suggest

you contact the C4 Librarian for recommendations. A bibliography for reading material on these four coinages would take up this entire newsletter. Let's start with the different ways to collect CT Coppers…

CT Coppers were dated from 1785 thru 1788. They all have a bust on the obverse and a seated Liberty on the reverse. You can form a:

- 1 coin collection: an example of a CT copper of any year/type
- 2 coins set: one head left and one head right
- 2 coins set: one mailed bust (wearing mail armor) and one draped bust (wearing a robe)
- 4 coins set: one coin from each date
- 4 coins set: two head lefts (one mailed bust and one draped bust), and two head rights (one mailed bust and one draped bust)
- 12 coins set: collect the major legend spelling errors
- 38 coins set: collect all the types listed in the Red Book
- 359 coins set: attempt to collect all the die varieties known for CT Coppers

VT Coppers were dated 1785 thru 1788. There were two types: the early type has a mountain range with a rising sun and a plow below, often called the "Landscape Variety." This reverse has a central eye and rays & stars radiating from the eye. The later type has a bust on the obverse and a seated Liberty on the reverse, usually called the "Bust type." The sets you can form are:

- 1 coin collection: an example of a VT copper of any year/type
- 2 coins set: one landscape and one bust
- 3 coins set: one landscape and one head left and one head right
- 4 coins set: one coin from each date
- 13 coins set: collect all the types listed in the Red Book
- 39 coins set: attempt to collect all the die varieties known for VT coppers

MA Cents and Half Cents were dated 1787 and 1788. The obverses have a Native American holding a bow and arrow and the reverse has an eagle holding an olive branch and arrows with a shield on its chest bearing the denomination. These were the first coins to bear the 'Cent' and "Half Cent" denominations. You can form:

- 1 coin collection: an example of any MA coin of any year/type
- 2 coins set: one Cent and one Half Cent
- 2 coins set: one of each date
- 4 coins set: one coin from each date for each denomination
- 7 coins set: collect all the types listed in the Red Book
- 51 coins set: attempt to collect all the known varieties of Cents and Half Cents

NJ Coppers were dated 1786 thru 1788. The obverse has the bust of a horse with a plow below. The reverse has a federal style shield and for the very first time, our National Motto "E PLURIBUS UNUM." You can build a set by obtaining:

- 1 coin collection: an example of a NJ copper of any year/type
- 2 coins set: one Head Left and one Head Right
- 3 coins set: one coin from each date
- 3 coin set: one Head Left and one Head Right, and one where the plow's coulter* is missing
- 26 coins set: collect all the types listed in the Red Book
- 145 coins set: attempt to collect all the die varieties known for NJ coppers

*A coulter is the part of a plow that is in front of the plow share and breaks up the earth before the plowshare turns it over.

These are not the only ways to collect state coppers. The methods of collecting are probably as varied as the number of collectors. For example, in the new Siboni/Howes/Ish *New Jersey State Coppers* book (ANS/C4 2013), there is a section called "Collecting Methodologies" which expands the nine lines I list above for collecting NJ Coppers into 17 pages! There are so many ways to have fun collecting prefederal coinages, and you'll never run out of possibilities.

The plates on the following pages show 15 coins from the four issuing states. By pursuing just 15 state coppers, you can complete a date set for all the states. Within those 15 coins, you can select whatever design types you choose. For instance, the three NJ coppers plated complete a date set, and consists of a Head Left, a Head Right and a Coulterless variety – all major type coins. It's addictive! I challenge anyone to complete a 15 coins date set and not continue pursuing additional type coins.

There are many reference books out there for the state coppers. Auction catalogs are a good source of information too. I suggest looking at the inventory of the C4 lending Library, located on the C4 website: www.colonialcoins.org. You can get an idea of what is available and contact our Librarian (currently Leo Shane), who has a wealth of numismatic information and will be able to advise you as to what books would be best. Some of the reference material is expensive and you might just want to borrow it first before deciding if you want to purchase it for your library.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of a personal library for your collection. The amount of pleasure you get from being able to read about the coins is as great as that of owning them. Start with the Whitman Red Book and then add the Whitman *Encyclopedia of Colonial and Early American Coins*. Both books are very economical. For those collecting colonials for a long time, reread the Red Book – you'd be surprised how much information is in there and how it's improved over the decades (Thanks Ken Bressett!). Add to these books as your search for knowledge increases.

My contact information is in the front of the C4 Newsletter and please feel free to email, write or call anytime – I love talking hobby. Have FUN!

CT Coppers

1785 Variety Miller 3.4-F.1
Mailed Bust Right Type

1786 Variety Miller 5.3-N
Mailed Bust Left Type

1787 Variety Miller 33.2-Z.12
Draped Bust Left Type

1788 Variety Miller 11-G
Mailed Bust Left Type

VT Coppers

1785 Variety Ryder 4
Landscape Type

1786 Variety Ryder 7
Landscape Type

1787 Variety Ryder 13
Bust Right Type

1788 Variety Ryder 16
Bust Right Type

MA Cents and Half Cents

1787 Variety Ryder 5-A
Half Cent Type

1788 Variety Ryder 1-B
Half Cent Type

1787 Variety Ryder 4-C
Cent Type

1788 Variety Ryder 4-G
Cent Type

NJ Coppers

1786 Variety Maris 12-l
Head Right, No Coulter Type

1787 Variety Maris 60-p
Head Right Type

1788 Variety Maris 51-g
Head Left Type

AUCTION REVIEW – NEWMAN V

(Richard August)

What can I say about the Heritage sale of the Newman collection Part V? I hate the expression: so and so "speaks for itself." But in this case, virtually every lot is an example of a masterpiece of a colonial coin. To find any fault with most of these coins is to seek imperfection in virtual perfection. To do so is to only reflect imperfection on oneself. There are a few lots though that can be criticized. We all have a few coins, a few old friends that we accept and like, even with their flaws. So here goes…and forgive me:

Lot 3001, a Sommer Islands shilling graded XF 40 brought $82,250. I thought it was VF, net F and I never quite saw the appeal of Sommer Island coinage in an American colonial collection. Still this is a very rare and desirable coin for many collectors.

Lot 3002, a Pitt farthing in choice VF brought $30,550. This is more likely a Betts listed medalet and not a coin, but still it is a very rare and nice item of Americana. I wish I owned one…even with a hole.

Lot 3003, a Pitt halfpenny choice UNC went for $20,562. It was well struck and choice. Nice. . . no, extra nice . . . like choice candy only you can't eat it.

Lot 3004, a choice AU 1783 Chalmers 3p brought $25,850. Another choice tidbit.

Lot, 3005 a choice AU 1783 Chalmers 6p brought $88,125. Very, very choice and the finest I have ever seen or heard about. The strike is fantabulous.

Lot 3006, a very nice AU 1783 Chalmers 12p brought only $10,575, probably due to the off-strike. . . still a great type.

Lot 3007, a rare 1783 Chalmers shilling with rings on reverse brought $44,062. While only AG/VG and holed, still a great rarity.

Lot 3008, a Nova Constellatio 2B in UNC brought $3,818. Wonderful coin, exceptional grade.

Lot 3009, a Nova Constellatio 2B in UNC also brought $3,818 – again, wonderful.

Lot 3010, a Nova Constellatio 2B in UNC 66 that could easily be called 68 brought $41,125 – a monster coin with full eye, full eye ball and full eye lash – the finest Nova I've ever seen!

Lot 3011, a Nova Constellatio 3C In UNC brought $8,812, the finest 3C I've ever seen!

Lot 3012, a Nova Constellatio 1B in UNC brought $7,343, again the nicest 1B I've ever seen!

Lot 3013, a Nova Constellatio 2A small date, which was, graded "obverse tooled, UNC details." I thought it was UNC and untooled; rather, it probably had a few spots where dirt or debris had been removed carefully. Still, it was exceptional and it went for $3,290. The nicest 2A I've seen.

Lot 3014, a Nova Constelltio 3B in choice UNC brought $6,168. Again the nicest I've seen.

Lot 3015, a Nova Constellatio 5E was graded AU58, but it could have been called UNC60. It brought only $1,527 due to the description. A great coin.

Lot 3016, a Nova Constelltio, 12 stars contemporary imitation. This unique coin brought only $7950! If I had been there, I would have bid this coin way up. I think it is worth 3 to 4 times what it brought. A great coin in great condition. While it was graded XF, it could easily be called an "as struck, crude UNC."

Lot 3017, the 1786 Machin's Mills Nova 1B was graded VF, but I would call it a crude Fine. It brought a healthy $21,150. Thank the lord I already have one! Most of these coins come in much lower condition, and I've only seen 2 distinctly better ones.

Lot 3018, a 1785 Inimica Tyrannis Cent in choice UNC. It is finest known by far, and brought a well-deserved $352,500. What a coin. What art.

Lot 3019, a 1785 Confederatio copper in VF brought $44,062. You can't buy one at the local coin store in the next 1,000 years.

Lot 3020, a 1786/5 Immunis Columbia, Confederatio mule brought $152,750 – another legendary coin.

Lot 3021, a 1785 Immune Columbia-Nova Constellatio reverse in AU brought $49,937 –yet again, a great coin.

Lot 3022, a 1785 Immune Columbia-Nova Constellatio reverse in AU struck in silver brought $135,125. This coin is so outstanding that it would not fit in my collection!

Lot 3023, a N.J. Immunis Columbia copper in UNC brought $141,000. Yet again a highlight by itself in anyone's collection.

Lot 3024 a 1785 Washington Confederatio copper in VF-XF brought $111,625. What a great Washington type!

Lot 3025, a 1776 New Hampshire graded VG8. I thought this naturally cast coin was more like a Fine; it brought $94,000. There are very few NH colonials known.

Lot 3026, a New York *Non Vi Virtute Vici* graded VF25 brought $38,187. I thought the coin was easily XF40 and choice for the grade.

Lot 3027, a New York Excelsior copper with transposed arrows graded AU50 brought $67,562. I graded this coin VF 30, net VF 25,but still very rare. I have seen only one better in a prominent N.J. collection.

Lot 3028, a 1787 Liber Natus-Excelsior reverse in AU brought $88,125. Not a common coin!

Lot 3029, a 1787 Liber Natus-Eagle on Globe reverse brought $49,937. This coin is only one of 10 known. This price was a steal for someone.

Lot 3030, a 1776 small date Machin's Mills in UNC brought $35,250. This is the finest known 9-76B. This is a legendary coin that Eric wrote about being a tie-in to Vermont hubs. The original striations of the planchet show on the obverse.

Lot 3031, a 1792 Washington President cent, "T below shoulder" in XF brought $117,500. It is currently unique.

Lot 3032, a Washington President cent-General of the American Armies reverse in XF brought $55,812. This is only an R6.

Lot 3033, a Washington Born Virginia-General of the-American armies reverse in MS65 brought $82,250. A very attractive coin.

Lot 3034, a 1792 Washington cent in UNC by Getz brought a healthy $164,500. This is one of the finest known.

Lot 3035, a 1792 Washington Roman head cent in Proof 65 brought $102,812. Yet another great rarity.

Lots 3036 to 3041 were 6 rare, choice and valuable Continental dollars. But these are way out of reach for the average collector. Still, a lot choice Continental dollars have and will continue to hit the market.

Lot 3042, a 1783 Treaty of Paris Betts medal brought $9,987. This is a rare, beautiful and significant medal. In fact this medal is far rarer than all the Continental dollars known and in my opinion way under valued.

And now for the Fugios

Lot 3043, a pleasant 1-B "Cross after date" in VF brought $1,880.

Lot 3043, a 1-L "Cross after date" graded VF30 brought $2,585. I would grade this a net VF20, but I feel the coin is an R6 rather than just an R5. It's very tough to find in VF grades.

Lot 3045, a 1-L "Cross after date" graded XF 45 brought $13,512. I graded the coin XF 40, but it is still a high condition census coin.

Lot 3046, a 1-Z "Cross after date, raised rims reverse" graded MS64 brought $55,872. This is a great coin but . . . I would call it AU58 as there are some light scratches at K9 between the rings and the label. I think this is the second finest known – second only to one I saw Ford himself sell to a prominent dealer. It is a solid R7 and head and shoulders above all the other 1-Ls I've seen.

Lot 3047, a 2-C "concave ray" graded XF 40 brought $35,250. I grade this VF35 and note that although an R6 die, it is clearly R7+ for grade. It is high condition census.

Lot 3050, a 3-D "club ray" in AU details brought $1,292. This was still a very attractive type coin, and well worth the money.

Lot 3051, another 3-D "club ray" graded AU53 brought $5,581. This was a very nice coin, and worth the money, but I would grade it XF45.

Lots 3052 and 3053 were both 4-E "club rays" in XF that brought the same $2,585. Very nice coins.

Lot 3054, a 6-W graded AU50 went for $2,820. I graded it VF 30.

Lot 3055, a common 8-B but a nice UNC brought a reasonable $3,818.

Lot 3056, another common 8-B, but a nice UNC, brought even more at $5,875. . presumably because of the holder grade of MS64.

Lot 3059, a 9-P in AU55 brought $3,055; this is possibly condition census for this die.

Lot 3061, a 10-G "1 over 1" graded VG10 brought $2,115. This I would grade F12 as this coin is often buckled on the obverse in the later die state.

Lot 3062, a 10-T "1 over 1" graded AU55 brought $25,850. I would grade this coin XF45 CAC, and I would not wish to denigrate it, as it is still high condition census for the coin.

Lot 3063, an 11-B in choice UNC brought a well-deserved bid of $15,275.

Lot 3067, a 15-Y "eight pointed star" in perfect XF40 brought a perfect $2,937.

Lot 3068, another 15-Y but in choice AU brought $11,750. So coins with that extra punch were bringing a lot more.

Lot 3069, a 16-H in VF35 brought $1,880. This is a tougher coin in this mid-to-upper grade.

Lot 3071, an 18-H graded VF30 brought $1,292. I graded the coin net F15 as it was not nearly as sharp as many others I've seen.

Lot 3072, an 18-U in perfect XF40 brought only $1,997. I felt this was worth a bit more.

Lot 3073, a 19-M wide date in VF30 brought only $1,997. This is a very tough coin to locate in this grade and while it is an R6 by die, it is easily an R7 by grade. This was a bargain.

Lot 3074, a 19-Z raised rim in choice XF45 brought $4,406. It is probably low condition census and is a nice coin.

Lot 3075, a 21-I graded VF25 brought $1,351. I really didn't care for the grade of this coin that much as I called it VG10 -- just my opinion. Everyone is free to have there own opinions (to a point!).

YOUR RARITY-1 COIN MIGHT JUST BE AN R-5

(James P. Rosen and Richard August)

By now, I am sure that most of you who are reading this article are familiar with the Sheldon Rarity Scale developed by William Sheldon around 1949 to describe the rarity of early large cents and their correlated value based on rarity. Since that time, almost all coins series, including pre-federal coinage and federal coinage, appear to have adopted this rarity scale to denote the scarcity of the coin. The scale goes something like this.

R-1 > 1250 pieces known	R-4 76-200	R-7 4-12
R-2 501-1250	R-5 31-75	R-8 2-3
R-3 201-500	R-6 13-30	R-9 Unique

Subsequent to the development this system, other individuals have developed additional rarity scales to denote rarity by the number of extant pieces. The Universal Rarity Scale (URS) system, rather than the Sheldon Rarity system, is used exclusively in Q. David Bowers' book *Colonial and Early American Coins* and explained clearly on page 31 of the book.

But what we would like to discuss is the concept that rarity, regardless of what scale you use, is in part related to the grade of the coin. This concept, we believe, was first suggested by Richard August to Alan Kessler sometime around 1976 in context with Kessler's book *The Fugio Cents,* published in 1976. In this book, rarity was discussed, not only in relationship to the number of pieces extant *but* also in context to the grade of the coin. For example, in the Fugio series, the Newman variety 1-B, cross after date, in VG condition is a low R-5, however in Unc, it is an R-8. Realize that these numbers might change as more coins come out of the woodwork. The value of knowing the relative rarity based on grade is important for a few reasons. First, it gives the collector an idea of how rare his or her coin is, not just in relationship to the total number extant, but also in connection with the grade of the coin. It will also give the collector an idea of what his or her expectations should be in upgrading a coin, for if you have 1-B Fugio in VG and want to upgrade this to an AU, you need to realize that there are only about 2 or 3 coins known in this grade. Please appreciate that these numbers for the 1-B Fugio in AU were valid in 1976...now they may have changed. But the concept hasn't. **Rarity should be based not only on the number of coins extant but also on the number of pieces known in a particular grade.**

So it wouldn't surprise me to see coins like a 1-B Fugio listed in your holdings on your envelope as R-5 in VG, if that's what you have, and R-8 in Unc. Obviously, most coins do not have Rarity ratings for variety and grade but we felt this concept was something of which you all should be cognizant.

MINUTES OF C4 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Nov. 1, 2014 -- Baltimore, MD

After introductions by the Board and by each of the attendees, the annual business meeting came to order.

President Jim Rosen announced the result of the recent election of officers: all officers of the club were reelected. In addition, two new Vice-Presidents were elected, Greg Field and Jim Glickman. They will represent new regions as Regional VPs. There are now nine regions in all. Members may check the upcoming Newsletter to see what region they are in.

A Motion was made to accept the minutes of last year's annual business meeting. The Motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report: Charlie Rohrer, Treasurer, reported that for the year ending December 31, 2013, C4 had $128,297 on hand. It is expected that C4 will have approximately $125,000 to $128,000 on hand at the end of 2014 once payments from Stack's related to the convention and other payments are received.

C4 Newsletter: Editor Syd Martin reported that the *Newsletter* has successfully gone to full color. Sufficient articles are being submitted, however there is a need for half-page articles that can be inserted where there is space. Some articles of a more basic nature have been received and are welcome, to ensure a good mix between more and less advanced material. If more articles are received than can be published in an upcoming edition, preference may be given to first-time authors, with overflow articles being placed in the following edition. Further, an option is to consider serialization for very long articles. If there is a need for images for an article, Jack Howes should be contacted for assistance. In addition, CDs containing the first 19 years of C4 Newsletter are available for purchase at a cost of $50. The purchaser of one of these CDs may, for only $15, purchase the updated CD when it becomes available.

Publications: There are four new books to be published by C4 on the horizon: a book on French-American colonial coins and a book on St. Patrick coinage by Syd Martin; a biography of Abel Buell by Chris McDowell; and a book on Lord Baltimore coinage by Lou Jordan. All are in various stages of completion, yet close to publication.

Convention: Dennis Wierzba reported that Friday evening's COAC event went very well, with more than 90 people attending, whereas around 70 usually attend. The room was regarded as very good and all seemed satisfied with the food, the cost of which was up to $40 per person this year. C4 will again use the Sheraton next year. It was noted that there were six C4 dealers adjacent to the C4 table, and the C4 table had an area for showing and photographing coins.

Library: Librarian Leo Shane reported that he receives approximately 12-15 requests to borrow items per year. The Library is open to EAC members, and occasionally a request is received from an EAC member. Finally, it was suggested that if you read a book that is in the Library, consider submitting a brief synopsis of it to *C4 Newsletter*.

Exhibits: There were three excellent exhibits at the C4 table this year: an exhibit organized by the C4 Board showing a Connecticut Redbook type set; an exhibit by Dave Menchel (his 20th in a row, with no repetition!) on Captain James Cook, and an exhibit organized by Alan Anthony called "Odd & Curious."

Outreach/Education: Jack Howes has produced a handout with many photographs introducing basic colonial types (State coinages, Fugios, etc.), and has made 2,000 copies of it. These should be distributed at coin shows and elsewhere, to educate and stir interest in colonial numismatics. The handout will also be available on the C4 website.

C4 Auction: We were reminded of the need to consign lots to the Stack's-Bowers C4 auction, since C4 derives a financial benefit from such consignments.

Research Grants: Research grants for C4 members conducting research related to colonial numismatics continue to be available, with the application form available on the website. Rather than placing a notice concerning these grants in every *C4 Newsletter*, there will be now be such a notice only once per year.

New Website: The Website Committee, comprised of Mike Wierzba, Greg Field, Ray Williams, Stan Stephens, and Jim Glickman, have been working on updating and making changes to the current C4 Website.

Membership: There are currently 381 members, 55 of whom are Life Members. Numbers for the past few years are similar.

President Jim Rosen closed the meeting by reading off the names of C4 members who have passed away in the recent past, followed by a moment of silence.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Glickman

SUSANNA HOLCOMB

Ray Williams

It was November 1998 on a cold Boston day...Diane, my wife, attended the C4 Convention that year. While I was occupied with C4 obligations, she was busy attempting to find a gift for me. Tom Rinaldo had just sold an interesting piece to Jeff Rock and the two of them advised Diane that I would like it.

Fast-forward to December 25, 1998, Christmas morning. Opening one of my neatly-wrapped gifts, I see several pairs of socks. Lifting them out of the box, a 2" x 2" coin envelope slid out. One of my favorite NJ Coppers was in it!

As seen in the left two pictures, above, this Maris 48-g had its design planed-off on both sides. Enough remains of the obverse to determine the die variety. Where the g reverse used to be, there is now a beautifully hand-engraved design that could be used for a seal or a printing block. The rightmost picture shows the engraving reversed, as an imprint would have looked on paper. What a cool Christmas gift!

So who was the Susanna Holcomb whose name is forever inscribed on my NJ Copper? With a little Googling, I found some possibilities:

- Susanna Alderman Holcomb (9/5/1723 – 1814) m. Hezekiah Holcomb 9/29/1748
  - Daughter Susanna Holcomb b.4/8/1753
- Susanna Hayes Holcomb m. Reuben Holcomb
  - Daughter Susannah (sic) Holcomb b. 8/17/1754
- Hezekiah Holcomb & 2nd wife
  - Daughter Susanna Holcomb (1/30/1775-4/14/1865)

Whether or not one of these five (or six) women owned this item doesn't diminish the thrill of having it in my collection. Anyone wishing an emailed image of this seal to paste on page 101 of the NJ Copper book, just send me an email request.

ON PLAGIARISM

The *Oxford English Dictionary Online* defines plagiarism as "The action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own; literary theft.[1] From a legal perspective plagiarism is the appropriation of someone's intellectual property and therefore is a violation of the copyright law. In order to avoid plagiarism one must document the source when using someone's ideas, opinions, research, statistics, photos, illustrations or any creative work including information appropriated from personal communications, lectures, and conversations. Anytime someone quotes or paraphrases from another the source must be cited and all quotes must be identified in quotation marks or indented. The term self-plagiarism has arisen for instances where one quotes or paraphrases from their own past work without citing it. However, self-plagiarism is not a violation of copyright law unless the author has signed over copyright to the publisher.[2]

Standard references for citations in the field of numismatics include *The Chicago Manual of Style, Printed 16th ed.*, 2010 (also available online, but this is not a free product), *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers,* 7th ed., 2009 (MLA stands for the Modern Language Association), and Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers.* 8th ed., 2013, which is an abbreviated version of the exhaustive *Chicago Manual*.

C4 takes plagiarism very seriously in the books we publish and in articles in our *C4 Newsletter*. If it is determined that an individual knowingly plagiarizes, disciplinary action will be taken by the Board of Directors of C4 with possible expulsion from the club and/or other punitive actions.

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1 "plagiarism, n.". *OED Online.* September 2014. Oxford University Press. http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/144939?redirectedFrom=Plagiarism& (accessed October 09, 2014).

2 "plagiarism," The Free Dictionary by Farlex, the Legal Dictionary , http://legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/plagiarism (accessed October 09, 2014);

Lorelle on Wordpress, "What Do You Do When Someone Steals Your Content," http://lorelle.wordpress.com/2006/04/10/what-do-you-do-when-someone-steals-your-content/ (accessed october 09, 2014);

"plagiarism," *Wikipedia*, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagiarism (accessed October 09, 2014);

U.S Government, Copyright Office, *Copyright Law of the United States*, http://www.copyright.gov/title17/ (accessed October 09, 2014); and

Cornell University Law School, Legal Information Institute, "Copyright," http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/copyright (accessed October 09, 2014).

Jim Rosen, President of C4
and Marc [Mayhugh],

November 6, 2014

As directed by the C4 Board and Jim's letter to me please accept this letter as an apology in using your C4 Article and the information within this article for inclusion in the GNL Book without permission and/or a reference within the GNL Contemporary Counterfeit Eight Reales Book. I do not keep a library of C4 articles anymore but did find your past C4 article on-line and did use the material within this article for the GNL Book. The information in this article was identical to Riddell's 1845 work in terms of the alloys for the Eight Reales and the information around this information was similar to the items discussed between Gurney and myself at the time. However, this is not an acceptable excuse as it was wrong to use this copyright information without permission from you or C4 so please accept this open apology – I accept full responsibility for my error. An ERRATA has been included in the GNL Book and all associated CDs for this book will contain this ERRATA sheet with your reference.
Kind Regards,
John Lorenzo.

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CT - GA - KY - MA - MD - NC - NH - NJ - NY - PA - RI - SC - VA

(Ray Williams)

Y'all recognize the above title as the state abbreviations for our 13 rebellious colonies. The purpose of the vague title was hopefully to get you to read at least this far. In 2014, about half of our C4 membership resided within these states. Based on no more than a gut feeling, I suspect that 85% of C4 members collect one or more of the state coinages. Regardless, we all have a passion for colonial numismatics as indicated by our mere presence here.

I would like to encourage each C4 member residing within these 13 states to consider adding just one colonial bill to your coin collection – one from your state. I'd like to encourage all who collect state coppers to obtain a bill from the state that issued the coins you collect. If you collect VT Coppers, that is the only state (former independent republic) whose bills are extremely expensive. And lastly, if you live in one of the other 37 states, your family likely came first to the East Coast – try to obtain a bill from the colony or state that was your family's first American home.

The reason for writing this article is that I want to share how much fun it is to study a colonial bill. Several of mine were purchased for under $100 (how many Starbuck's coffees is that?). Each bill is unique as every one has its own serial number. Each one is hand signed by someone of importance at the time. Finding out about the man who put his quill pen to your bill can be fun and rewarding. Why does your bill even exist? You can research the legislation that brought it into being, the printers who made it and the economic climate that made it necessary.

We are all part of the hobby. Some are professional numismatists that must make a living at it, but for most of us this is a hobby where we just have fun. Consider how much fun you can have for a bargain price by just obtaining a colonial bill!

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C4 LIBRARY NEWS

(Leo Shane)

Below are new items acquired the club since the last C4 Library Update. They are now available for loan by all C4 members. A complete list of library holdings and instructions on how to borrow them is available at the C4 website www.colonialcoins.org. Thanks to all who have donated items.

Thank You to those who have checked their old copies of auction catalogs and donated them to the library. There's still room for more. The Library is interested in getting copies of past auction catalogs that we currently do not have. Take a look at the list shown on the club website. Any that are not already in the library are greatly appreciated. Remember, all catalogs that have at least one Colonial will have the colonial section separated and added to the library archive. Catalogs with major colonial content will be retained in their entirety. Thanks

Books, Manuscripts & Auction Catalogs:

Stacks, *John J. Ford Jr. Collection of Coins, Medals and Currency Part IX (US Medals, Rosa Americana Coinage, Connecticut Coppers, Colonial and Continental Currency)*, 10 May 2005, New York, NY – Donated by Ed Wojcik.

Williams, Ray, *Collecting State Copper Coinage,* Whitman Coin & Collectibles Exposition, 2012, DVD – Donated by David Lisot.

Williams, Ray, *Coins and Medals Commemorating George Washington,* Whitman Coin & Collectibles Exposition, 2013, DVD – Donated by David Liscot.

Convention Booklet for the 20Th Annual C4 Convention, 30 October - 2 November 2014, Baltimore: Includes; President's Message, schedule of events and other useful convention information – Donated by Ray Williams.

Stacks Bowers, *The Winter 2014 Americana Auction (C4 Convention Sale)*, 29-31 October 2014 & 4 November 2014, Baltimore, MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

Daniel Frank Sedwick, *Treasure and World Coin Auction 16,* 6 November 2014, Orlando, FL – Donated by Daniel Sedwick. Heritage, *US Coin Auction Selections from the Eric P. Newman Collection Part V,* 14-15 November 2014, New York, NY – Donated by Heritage.

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2014 Chicago ANA Auction Rarities Night,* 6 August 2014, Chicago, IL – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

Stacks Bowers, *The August 2014 Chicago ANA Auction US Coins,* 8 & 12 August 2014, Chicago, IL – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

Stacks Bowers, *New York PNG Auction,* 10 & 14 October 2014, New York, NY – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

Stacks Bowers, *The Winter 2014 Baltimore Auction,* 30 October & 4 November 2014, Baltimore, MD – Donated by Stacks Bowers.

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. *Thank You*, my E Mail is Leo_J_Shane@hotmail.com or write to me at 1130 Woods Lane. Warminster PA 18974.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Heads up! The dates for our convention next year are 5-8 November 2015. Block it our now in your calendars!

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BASIC ARTICLES FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER, A NEW DIRECTION

The Board of Directors, in an effort to balance the articles in the *Newsletter* to include more basic topics on our hobby, has decided to reach out to the membership for basic articles on Pre-Federal Coins and Currency to be submitted to the *Newsletter*. Given the possibility ethat multiple authors might submit similar articles to the *Newsletter*, we are requesting that **BEFORE** you write and submit an article to the editor of the *Newsletter*, Syd Martin at sfmartin5@comcast.net or Will Nipper, Associate Editor at will.nipper1777@gmail.com you send your idea to Syd or Will via phone or email to be sure that a similar topic is not already in the works. In addition, if there is a similar topic being considered virtually simultaneously by multiple authors, one can consider a collaborative effort with multiple authors on this topic. The date that an idea is received via email or phone to Syd will determine whose idea is accepted for publication. Our hope is to make our *Newsletter* more enjoyable for all Colonial Collectors – novices and advanced collectors alike.

Some ideas that would make excellent articles are: type collecting by series; why were state coinages made; an introduction to Fugios; an overview on the Continental Currency coinage of 1776; grading colonial coins by series; planchet flaws on particular series; striking characteristics of certain varieties of coins; planchet quality (e.g., Mass Copper usually having nice planchets); rocker presses on Mass Silver and what are those bends all about; weights on state coinages; value of state coppers; planchet color and quality, (e.g., of Rosa Americana and Machin's Mill series); coin and currency storage; an introduction to the Machin's Mills series; and the like. These are just a few of the topics that can be written about. Our hope is to strike a balance between research-oriented articles for the more advanced collector and more basic articles for the not-so-advanced collector.

Thank you, Jim Rosen

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RESEARCH ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

I'm currently undertaking a comprehensive study of the Castorland jeton. I'm approaching the study from both sides of the Atlantic, relying heavily on French sources, and my study entails operational details from the manufacture of flans to the mechanical workings of the screw press; the history of jetons as they evolved from arithmetical counters to monarchial presentation pieces; events leading up to the establishment of the New York Company; the biography of Benjamin Duvivier; etc. culminating in detailed descriptions of variants struck from at least one original die. As you can see it's a big work, but I've been at it quite a few years and am wonderfully engaged in the project. Here is a "finding list" of details I'm looking for, as well as photos if possible:

1. If the specimen is in a slab, all the label information.
2. Identify the metal, gold, silver, copper, bronze. If silver, indicate thin or thick planchet.
3. If edge-stamped, identify the symbol and the lettering and location of the stamping (such as 6 o'clock relative the obverse.)
4. Die alignment: coin turn/medal turn.
5. Describe state of any reverse die failure, perceptible bulge, advanced crack, etc.
6. Describe reverse caustic incursion, sometimes identified as rust, at the right handle of the vessel.
7. Describe any other identifying factors such a rim bumps, scratches, spots, unfilled letters of legends, etc. that would help identify the piece if it were re-encapsulated at some future time.
8. Indicate the provenance, if known. If you currently own the specimen feel free to identify it ex your name for the benefit of future owners.

Please contact Chester L. Sullivan at csull@ku.edu

COMPLETE C4 NEWSLETTER CDs FOR SALE

C4 is making available on CD of a complete set of *C4 Newsletters* from 1993 (vol.1, no.1) through 2011 (vol.19, no. 4). The format is a fully searchable PDF files, which makes life and research much easier. Thanks to Randy Clark, Ray Williams and Gary Trudgen for their vision and extremely hard work, which now lets us offer these wonderful research tools to you for $50 plus $4.00 p&h for members or $75 plus $4.00 p&h for non-members. To order, please contact either (a) Wayne Shelby at dughistory@juno.com or at P.O. Box 568 Rancocas, NJ 08073 or (b) Charlie Rohrer at RohrerC@cadmus.com or at P.O. Box 25 Mountville, PA 17554. Please send your check made out to C4 to Charlie Rohrer at the above address.

Obtaining Back Copies of C4 Newsletter and C4 Auction Catalogues

Wayne Shelby has agreed to store the back copies of the *C4 Newsletter*. People wishing to purchase back issues that are still available should send their money to our treasurer, Charlie Rohrer, whose contact data are at page 2. Upon receipt of the money, he will contact Wayne, who will mail out the material. Back copies of the *Newsletter* are $10 for the first and $8 for all after that placed at the same time. If you have questions of what material is available, you can contact Wayne at:

P.O. Box 568
Rancocas, NJ 08073-956

dughistory@juno.com
609-261-6662 (Home)

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C4 Offers Important Colonial Books

For more information on the following books, published by the Colonial Coin Collectors Club (C4), visit the C4 website at www.colonialcoins.org. These books may be ordered directly from: Charles Davis' website: www.numisbook.com.

(1) Carlotto, Tony, The Copper Coins of Vermont and Those Bearing the Vermont Name, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 1998. Price: $165.

(2) Jordan, Lou. *John Hull, The Mint, and The Economics of Massachusetts Coinage,* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2002. Price: $10.

(3) Martin, Sydney. *The Hibernia Coinage of William Wood (1722-1724),* Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2007. Price: $85.

(4) Martin, Sydney. *The Rosa Americana Coinage of William Wood*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2012. Price $85.

(5) Siboni, Roger S., Howes, Jack L. and Ish, A. Buell, *New Jersey State Coppers. History. Description. Collecting.*, The American Numismatic Society and Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2013. Price: $195.

(6) Vlack, Robert. *An Illustrated Catalogue of the French Billon Coinage in the Americas*, Colonial Coin Collectors Club, 2004. Price: $50.

(7) *New Jersey State Coppers -- History * Description * Collecting*, authored by Roger Siboni, Jack Howes, and Buell Ish and co-published by ANS and C4 is now available. Purchases may also be made by mail (via a form that can be downloaded) or directly through the ANS website using either PayPal or credit card; be sure to indicate whether you are a C4 or ANS member.

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The Daniel Frank Sedwick database of fake cobs is now on ForgeryNetwork :

http://www.forgerynetwork.com/default.aspx?keyword=cob .. http://www.forgerynetwork.com/asset.aspx?id=QEjfzd5ZR~x~8=

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C4 Membership Dues

Annual dues are currently $25.00 for Regular Membership ($35 if residing outside the United States) and $10.00 for Junior Membership (under 18 years of age; $15 is non US resident). They are payable on a calendar year basis... due January 1. The year through which you are paid appears after your name on the mailing address label on the *C4 Newsletter* envelope. Life Memberships can be purchased for 25 times the annual membership cost, or $625.00. You may mail checks (made out to "C4") to:

Charlie Rohrer, C4 Treasurer
PO Box 25
Mountville, PA 17554

Thank you for paying in a timely manner... It makes his job easier and will be much appreciated!

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NEW RESOURCE FOR THE C4 NEWSLETTER

Our C4 Newsletter now has an index available on our website at www.colonialcoins.org. There are actually two indexes: one by author and a second by topic/title. This is a beginning and the index will improve over time. We have intentions of updating the index within a week or two of every issue being shipped. We ask past authors and contributors to the C4N to please review their work in the index and forward any corrections/additions/suggestions to Ray Williams at njraywms@optonline.net or give a call.

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In accordance with our by-laws, those who have recently joined C4 as provisional members are listed below. If any current C4 member in good standing has a reason any of the following should be denied membership in C4, please contact either your Regional VP or the President of the Club, Jim Rosen. The new provisional members, with their home states, are :

Reecy Aresty - FL	Bruce Lueck - SC
Eric Correira - MA	Robert Rodriguez - NV
Mike Greiman - PA	Gene Sherman - CA
Richard Gross - MD	Chris Stocklin - OH
William Jahn - MD	Alan Weinberg - CA

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Grayscale ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows (color ads are 50% more in each category):

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	4 issues	Copy Size
1 page	$200	$300	$450	$600	6" x 9"
1/2 page	$125	$180	$250	$350	6" x 4.5"

Covers cost somewhat more (please inquire – generally $200 additional). If you want to include a photo with your ad there will be an additional $10 charge. A black and white photo will be needed, but the size can be adjusted. Please send check with your ad. We accept camera-ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 10 lines of text.

NOTICE: The Colonial Coin Collectors Club does not review the ads provided for accuracy, nor does it assess any items offered for sale relative to authenticity, correct descriptions, or the like. C4 is not to be considered a party to any transactions occurring between members based on such ads, and will in no way be responsible to either the buyer or seller.

COLONIAL VIRGINIA COPPERS: I am collecting all information, images and data on colonial Virginian coppers. Please share with me your photos of counterstamped, defaced, or unusual coppers. In addition copies of any stories, old newsprint articles or papers relating to the Virginians would be appreciated. Thank you. You can contact me at rogermoore435@yahoo.com. Thank you!! Roger Moore

"Colonial, cut, countermarked and Caribbean coins (and some other odds and ends as well). I am starting to sell a few pieces and have put up a website to that end. Please take a look at eastrockcoins.com. Peter Griffin."

✧✧✧

COLONIALS FOR SALE: Personal collection assembled 30 years ago. E-mail me with your interests and I will provide digital photos and asking prices. Gary Trudgen (gtrudgen@stny.rr.com)

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